

BRISA Committee Meeting 23rd February 2006

MINUTES

Present: Paul Brooking, John Wareing, Andy Neil, Steve Birtwell, Peter West, David West, F. Walsh, F. Higginbotham, Matt Howard, Glenn Pegden, Jill Pegden, Scott Thornton, Carole Billouin, Dennis Gasgarth, Clare Nolan, Mark Whalley

Apologies: Alan Griffiths, Stuart Wilkinson, Mike Graham

1. Officers

The meeting agreed members would fill positions as below until the AGM:

Chair: Paul Brooking
Treasurer: Stuart Wilkinson
Secretary: Paul Brooking

2. Community Attendance Working Group

This group has been focusing on the lack of Asian support at Ewood Park. The group approached the club hoping to understand the club's work to date on this issue. It is understood the club recently appointed Gill Kinloch (sp.) as Community Affairs Officer (CAO). BRISA requested a meeting with Gill but to date it has not been possible to arrange this. The CAO is a relatively new post at Blackburn Rovers and the general feeling is BRISA needs to continue to build its relationship with the club before this meeting can occur.

Gill has made a presentation to the Fans Forum and BRISA will ask to see this same presentation at an appropriate time.

Action: Paul to include in next meeting agenda with the club

3. Attendances

The meeting agreed a March Newsletter should be used to inform all members of the outcome of recent meetings with the club. **Action:** Alan and Paul

Attendance is a continuing agenda item. The outcome of recent meetings with JW and TF will be incorporated in the BRISA Attendance Report. Constantly updating this document will create a valuable reference point for the future. **Action:** Scott

The Attendance Report to be re-visited with an emphasis on establishing which questions have been fully answered and, where BRISA feels questions remain, returning to the club on these points. **Action:** Scott

From the Attendance Report, the meeting opinion and general discussion with fans it is felt the key issues for BRISA re attendance currently are:

- “Rolling” season tickets
- Ewood Express – bus service for fans from outlying areas
- “Benefit” ticket – for those receiving unemployment benefits
- Young adult tickets
- Local and national illegal TV broadcasts, popularly thought of as illegal Sky. BRISA may wish to campaign locally on the issue
- Membership scheme – BRISA would be interested to know how many non season ticket holders are members.

4. Atmosphere

The club remain very keen to discuss atmosphere with BRISA. After much discussion, the meeting agreed to progress this in the same manner as the Attendance issue. Opinions will be gathered from fans via:

- Attendance document which contains many references to atmosphere
- Contact with fans via e-mail, snail mail, message board threads
- Create questionnaire, possibly a flyer or page in programme
- Contact local media to raise issue – LET, Radio Lancashire

Other ideas/questions from the meeting included, noted here as aide memoir:

- Will the club spend to create an atmosphere?
- Weekly video diary from the club
- Local to ground – banners, flags as per “the girls are back in town”
- Build atmosphere on approach to Ewood
- Banners/flags in ground
- Drummers and bands
- Crowd leaders
- Song words on screen
- Kids goodie bags

Action: Glenn to start threads on various message boards

5. Any Other Business

Football Supporters Federation, the meeting agreed BRISA would join the FSF.

Action: Scott

Regional Groups are very significant to BRISA. The Working Group on this subject is almost ready to report with recommendations on the best way forward. Glenn will circulate the report within the next week. **Action:** Glenn

Next Meeting Agenda will focus on:

- Regional Branches and Groups
- Illegal TV broadcasts
- Match atmosphere
- Matters for the AGM

6. Date of Next Meetings

March 23rd 2006 at the Watersedge
April 27th 2006 at the Watersedge
AGM – May 25th – venue to be agreed